

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Oil Dump Near Astrakhan

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- About 2 to 10 km southwest of Astrakhan (46°21'N/48°03'E), Astrakhan Oblast, on the western side of the Volga River, there was an oil dump close to the river and just south of the ship repair yard. The dump covered an area of about 1 x 1.5 km and was surrounded by an embankment. The tank depot had a highway connection but no spur track.
- In 1947 the dump consisted of 24 old oil tanks, 25 to 30 meters in diameter and 10 to 15 meters high, each with a capacity of between 4,000 and 6,000 tons. In 1948 eight additional large tanks were built, each with 3,000 to 2,000 tons volumetric capacity. By April 1949, four more large tanks were established, each with a capacity of 6,000 to 7,000 tons. The tanks were arranged in groups of four, each group being surrounded by a revetment 1.5 meters high. The tanks were connected by pipe lines, and the tank depot was connected with the large twin-line to Saratov (51°34'N/46°02'E).
- In the area of the oil dump there were a boiler house for the operation of the pump stations, a pump plant, a radio station, an administration building, and filling installations and landing places for tankers. From two to four oil tankers daily came from Baku, each ship loaded with 3,000 to 5,000 tons of crude oil and residue oil. At the oil dump in Astrakhan some of the cargo of the tankers was loaded on barges and shipped upstream, and some was put into tanks and pumped through the main line to Saratov. On the average, the tanks were about two thirds full.
- Work was generally done only in one shift. The total work force of the oil dump was about 250 men.

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